



HF Happenings

Volume 14, Issue 26

No 703

the week of 2 May 2016

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp.

This issue of HF Happenings comes to you from Brussels in Belgium, where I am attending the Region 1 EC Meeting.

2016 Digital Mode Most Wanted Survey

All digital operators are invited to participate in the "2016 Digital Mode Most Wanted Survey." Previously known as the "RTTY Most Needed DXCC Entities Survey" in 2002, 2005 and 2011, the name has been changed to reflect current times and to be more in line with the Digital DXCC award. Several entities at the top of the 2011 list have been active recently, so now is a good time to find out what is needed on the digital modes. The survey can be found at <http://survey.hamdocs.com/index.php/468764>

Please be sure to read the "How to use the 2016 Digital Mode DX Most Wanted Survey" at the top of the page. The survey will only be available for two weeks and will close at 23:59 UTC on Friday 13 May 2016. So do not delay, please complete the survey promptly. It is our hope to have the results available before the Dayton Hamvention. It is very important that every digital operator take part in the survey in order to achieve the most accurate results possible. These surveys help DXpedition planners and are of interest to all digital operators. Feel free to forward this invitation to other groups.

A new feature has been added to this year's survey. It is now possible to work on the survey, take a break from it and resume it later. You do not have to complete the survey all at one time. There is a button at the very end of the survey that says "Resume Later." Clicking this option will bring you to a page that asks for your name, a password and e-mail address. An e-mail will be sent to you with a link that will bring you back to the survey you were working on. Alternatively, you can resume the survey using your password.

Previous survey results can be found here <http://www.aa5au.com/rtty/rtty-most-needed-dxcc-entities>. Thank you for your participation! 73 from the Survey Team - Don AA5AU, Ed WOYK, and Larry K8UT

Pirate Alert

'Hassan from Baghdad' has been "pirating and bootlegging" multiple calls for several years. He has been heard bootlegging the calls YI1HR, YI1H, YI1HRP and YI1HI and pirating the calls YI1BGD, YI1IRQ, YI1DZ and most recently TA7/YI1RZ. Unfortunately, in Iraq there does not seem to be any enforcement to take Hassan off the air, much less do anything about the situation. Therefore let us get the word out not to work or spot Hassan who operates on 20 metres SSB, usually around 14 178 to 14 188. In fact the best policy is to ignore him completely on the air."



Results of the 2015 CQ WW CW Contest



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



The May 2016 issue of CQ magazine carries the results of the 2015 CQ WW CW Contest. Moreover, Vidi la Grange achieved a third place world wide in the 28 MHz high power category.

Raoul Coetzee, ZS1C - all band high power - 106 560 points

Abe Zwiegelhaar, ZS1ZS - all band high power - 6 000 points

Vidi la Grange, ZS1EL - 28 MHz high power - 224 846 points

Barry Nugent, ZS2NF - all band low power - 1 104 369 points

Johan van Aarde, ZS2I - all band low power - 562 530 points

Stephan van Jaarsveldt - all band low power - 312 points

Pierre van Deventer, ZS6A - all band assisted high power - 40 326 points

Geoff Levey, ZS6C - all band assisted low power - 38 745 points

May

1 - Worker's Day

2 - Public Holiday

5 - Ascension Day

7 and 8 - AWA Valve QSO Party

8 - Mother's Day; SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070

15 - ZS3 Sprint

19 - Radio Amateur Examination

20 to 22 - SARL National Convention, Sasolburg

20 to 22 - Dayton Hamvention

23 - Closing date for June Radio ZS articles

25 - Africa Day

29 - SARL Digital Contest

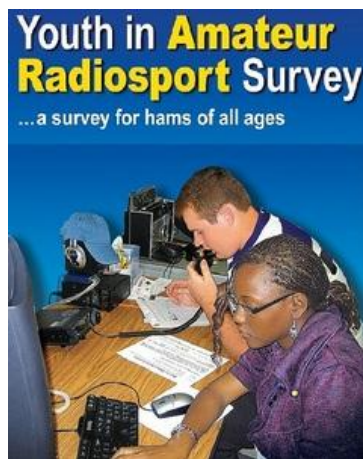
The 5 MHz Newsletter

The latest edition of The 5 MHz Newsletter (No 16 Winter/Spring 2016) is now available for free pdf download from <http://tinyurl.com/zh65rb9>. This edition features news on the latest 5 MHz allocations, a provisional band plan from IARU Region 1 and a cartoon that might bring back a few memories!

ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Conducting Youth in Amateur Radiosport Survey

The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) has been looking into how to attract more youngsters and youth into Amateur Radio contesting, and it has invited all amateurs and especially young people, whether or not they are already radio amateurs, to take the Youth in Amateur Radiosport Survey

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Txs_pjho6yAzwDZCZb5pbJvjf9ljcrPn2rMp_Kxr4kg/viewform?c=0&w=1.



"Please spread the word about the survey among your ham friends and local radio and contest clubs," said CAC Chair George Wagner, K5KG, adding that the CAC would like to see more young people engaged in "the thrill and challenge of competitive ham radio contesting - also called 'radiosport.'" Wagner and fellow CAC member Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, plan to hand out survey announcement cards at Dayton Hamvention® - Johnson at the NCDXF booth and Wagner at Carole Perry's, WB2MGP, Youth Forum and at the ARRL Youth Rally.

As an initial step, the CAC is gathering information about where and how young people are currently involved in radiosport. It is contacting ham radio clubs, contest clubs, private schools, international youth ham radio organizations and the general public. The committee is using surveys, focus groups and even face-to-face

meetings to check "the lay of the land" about youth and radiosport in today's world, Wagner said.

Radio contests grew out of attempts in the early 1900s to transmit and receive signals across the Atlantic, essentially the beginning of the use of the "short waves" to span such long distances. Contests have allowed hams to practice message handling - used during emergency communication - as well as to gauge their own operator proficiency and their station's performance. Over time, contests grew and flourished to the point where many hams today pursue contests as their primary ham activity.

"For those who participate in radiosport, it provides a thrill that's often compared to roller coaster rides or video gaming or big game hunting," commented CAC member Don Daso, K4ZA. "There's just something about contacting a great number of people all over the world as fast as possible, or talking to someone - just like yourself, at a station like your own - on the opposite side of the world, and doing it without using a giant infrastructure or even a huge outlay of money."



Like many types of competitions, this "sport," Daso said, can be addictive. The survey will continue to accept input until 31 August. Scan the QR code above, or visit the online survey to participate

Touch Screens

While touch screens are already starting to be incorporated into ham gear, their use continues to be discussed and debated. This article from EE Times discusses some of the practical considerations of using touch screens in an automotive environment, which shares with contesting similar issues of potential electrical noise and operator focus
http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?section_id=36&doc_id=1329574.

Word to the Wise

Latency - the delay from an input to a system to an output from that same system. For example, some RTTY decoders may be more accurate in noisy conditions, but make take as long as one to three character times to spit out a decoded character.

Operating Tip

Here's a mobile operating tip from Bill, ACOW: If you're operating mobile and you find that your whip antennas are not staying at the correct length because of slipping set screws, instead of using a thread-locking type of compound, you could use a **knurled cup point set screw**, which will bite better than normal set screws. This will allow easier intentional adjustment. They are available from McMaster-Carr, Grainger and other vendors.

ADIF File Splitter

Jim, AD1C, has written an ADIF File splitter, to 'burst' a single file into multiple files based on transmitted QTH. Each of these sub-files can be signed and uploaded to LoTW using a different station location. He has tested it with N1MM and WriteLog - see his website for more information and support for other loggers http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF_Split/.

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Burkina Faso, XT. Harald, DF2WO, is once again active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until 15 May. Activity will be holiday style on all bands (depending on the propagation) using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and JT65. QSL via M0OXO, direct or OQRS <http://www.m0oxo.com/oqrs/>.

Democratic Republic of Congo, 9Q0HQ. Henk, ON4AHF, and Herwig, ON4BNI, were active as 9Q0HQ on 23 to 29 April. They operated from the Association des Radio Amateurs du Congo's station in Kinshasa and will upload their logs to Club Log when they return home. QSL for this activity via ON4AHF.

Elvira, IV3FSG, is currently active as 9Q0HQ/1 from Kimbondo and will in her turn be active as 9Q0HQ from Kinshasa between 1 and 22 May. QSL for her activities via IK3GES.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Seychelles, S7. A group calling their operation "A-Sixpedition" will be active as S79V from Villa Koket in the northeast Mahe Island (AF-024) between 1 and 10 July. Operators mentioned are Paul, A65DR/G7SLP/KW4CM, Joel, A65BX/N8XJ/JG1MBQ, Martin, A65DC/SA6MIW, Gerald, A65CB/DU1AZ, Obaid, A61DJ and Keli, TF8KY. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They state, "If our location allows we will make an effort in running 160 m WSPR while not operating during nights." Their equipment consists of two Kenwood TS590 with ACOM 1010 amplifiers at 400 w. Antennas are 8 monoband antennas will be used, for 17 to 10 m, they will have 2 element VDAs, 20 m 3 element VDA, 30 m 2 element phased array, 40 m 2 element phased array and 80 m top loaded vertical. QSL via IZ8CLM. They will also upload logs daily to ClubLog, LoTW, QRZ.com and eQSL.cc. For more details see www.a6dx.com/index.html

St Helena Island, ZD7, (ZD7VDE Postponed). Bill, G0VDE, reports, "I've just received the disappointing news that the opening of St Helena airport has been postponed. Following the recent 'implementation flight' it appears there were issues with turbulence and wind shear on approach to the runway from the north. Because of the data gathered and the conditions experienced, it has been decided that there is some additional work to be done in order to ensure the safe operation of scheduled passenger flights to and from St Helena Airport.

More information is available at <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/airport-opening-ceremony-postponed/>

This is obviously disappointing but safety at a new airport is clearly paramount. The dates of my operation will be later in the summer and I will let you know as soon as more information is available."

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 2 to 9 May 2016

Next Week's Contests

VHF Happenings

CPUT Paper at AMSAT SA Symposium

Students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology will present a paper at the AMSAT SA Space Symposium on the high frequency beacon transmitter developed to test a three element direction finding array constructed at SANSA Space Science in Hermanus to receive the 14 099 kHz HF beacon signal from ZACUBE-1 and future ZACUBE-i space weather missions. A ground-based transmitter was developed for verification and calibration of this array. The signal will be used to verify the operation of the hardware and software used to determine the direction of arrival of the incoming signal. More about the symposium on 28 May 2016, details on the many papers to be presented and how to register for the event can be found on www.amsatsa.org.za

Exploring the Microwaves

Why are our radio amateurs not exploring microwaves like their foreign peers? The DUBUS amateur radio magazine publishes many amateur microwave experiments that happen worldwide. It records amateur activities on Super High Frequency (SHF), 3 - 30 GHz. from countries such as Germany, UK, Spain, Italy, France, Sweden, Australia and USA, etc., as well as on Extremely High Frequency (EHF), 30 - 300 GHz spectrum and the establishment of many new records.



In earlier years a number of South African amateurs set up records on the microwave bands too, that are still standing today. It all started in 1962 at East London when Arthur, ZS2CK, and Mike, ZS2FM, recorded the first microwave amateur QSO on 10 GHz (3 cm) using homebuilt klystron transceivers. With the advent of Gunn diode oscillators, a spate of new microwave records were established from 1976 on microwave frequencies between 1,3 GHz and 47 GHz all on FM, which featured ZS6BNT, ZS6ML, ZS6BG, ZS6ANL, ZS6ASO, ZS6KX, ZS6BTY, ZS6BMS and ZS6AOU.

The current terrestrial microwave records on 1,3 GHz and 2,3 GHz are still held by Dave, ZS6BNT, and Gary, ZS6ASO, over 422 km and 198 km respectively. Ivo, ZS6AXT, and Jon, ZS6JON, established the present records on 5,7, 10 and 24 GHz over distances of 151, 299 and 56 km, respectively. The one and only record set up on 47 GHz by Arnold, ZS6BMS, and Julian, ZS6AOU, is still standing on 21,2 km. Ivo, ZS6AXT, pioneered EME on microwaves, his current EME records are: 1,3 GHz with WBOQMN 15 407 km; 2,3 GHz with NU7Z 16 482 km and 5,7 GHz with W7CNK 14 745 km. Who will be next to break any of these records?

Contests this week

Next Week's Contests

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter